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**HICEEC First Edition – October 2025**

**It was a Warm Welcome at the Visitor Centre**
This summer, Michele Papp greeted visitors at the HICEEC Visitor Centre, located at the Farmers Market entrance. The kiosk provided visitor guides, Vision 2040 booklets, pens, and event tips and served as the Market Lost & Found. HICEEC funded one of the area outhouses, adding to visitors’ and vendors’ comfort. It was a great success: 895 people passed through the booth.

**High-speed Internet Connections Continue**
City West continues to bring more homes online in our joint Hornby-Denman fibre optic internet project. This Fall the civil build will shift to Denman, then back to Hornby in the Spring. We anticipate completion of the project in 2026. It has been heartening to hear the stories of people whose life/work life balance has improved since connecting to high-speed internet.

**Hornby Bus Rolled Through Summer**
From June 27 through Labour Day, the Hornby Bus offered 11 hours of daily service. Thanks to dedicated drivers and volunteers, the program was a great success, with 4,337 people taking the bus. A full ridership report will be shared this fall.

**What’s On?**
Congratulations to Hornby Arts on the opening of the Arts Centre! HICEEC was pleased to contribute $7500 of MRDT funding to help host the V.I.P. opening on Sept. 12.

From concerts and art exhibits to tasting rooms and yoga, the **Hornby Events Calendar** reported on a lively summer. **Continue to find** “things to do” at **hornbyisland.com/events**.

**Where the Hornby “Pillow Tax” Goes**
The Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT), or “pillow tax,” collected from visitors, continues to support Hornby’s vitality. Most funds go to an affordable workforce housing fund and to support off-season events, sports, and community initiatives. Thank you to those visitors who pay the tax.

**Looking Ahead: MRDT Consultations & Fall Business Mixer**
**Save the date: October 14th** at Sea Breeze: 3 pm, Calum Matthew will conduct the MRDT stakeholder consultations. At 5 pm, First Credit Union will host a mini “meet and greet”, leading into the HICEEC Fall networking event, featuring the Business of the Year awards. Join us for top-notch participating and networking opportunities.

**Boat Ramp and Launch Improvements**
Upgrades at the Shingle Spit boat launch are under way. As with any construction project, some minor delays have occurred, but now it looks to be ready for service in early November. Thanks to the CVRD for taking on this vital island infrastructure, and to the HIRRA committee members who helped launch the project!

**Still Pushing for Land for Homes**
Though our initial proposal for acquiring Crown Land near the Firehall was declined, HICEEC remains committed. With Regional District support, we continue exploring solutions to provide a site for housing to meet urgent local needs.

**Vision 2040 – Our Community Roadmap**
Vision 2040, created by HICEEC and HIRRA, is more than a plan—it’s a shared vision for a resilient Hornby Island. Paper copies are available at the HICEEC office, or you can read it online at https://hirra.ca/hornby/hornby-island-community-vision-statements/

**Microloans Making a Difference**
Hornby’s Microloan Program empowers local entrepreneurs with small loans that have big impacts on the local economy. Thank you to our silent “eagles” who make this possible, and congratulations on the 100% track record on repayments.

**Speak Up for Better Ferry Service**
With BC Ferries ending local advisory committees, your voice is more important than ever. Share feedback with:

* BC Ferries: engagement@bcferries.com | 1-888-223-3779
* MLA Josie Osborne: Josie.Osborne.MLA@leg.bc.ca
* BC Ferry Authority: ClaireTrevena@bcferryauthority.com
* MOTI Marine Branch: Francois.Bertrand@gov.bc.ca

From your HICEEC Volunteer Board:
John Heinegg, John Grayson, Jack Hornstein, Katherine Ronan, Donna Tuele, Sheila McDonnell, Stu Amos, and Marilyn Kopansky